

MINUTES
OF THE
EIGHTIETH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,
HELD WITH
MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH,
FRANKLIN COUNTY, MISS.

OCTOBER 8TH, 9TH, 10TH 11TH, 1888.



OFFICERS:

ELDER R. N. HALL,.....	Summit,.....	MODERATOR.
D. M. HUFF,.....	McComb City,.....	CLERK.
W. Z. LEA,.....	Liberty,.....	TREASURER.



JACKSON, MISS.:
BAPTIST RECORD BOOK & JOB PRINT,
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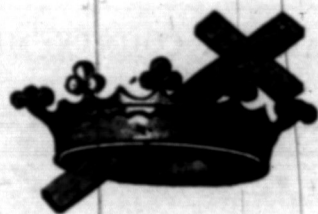


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MINUTES
OF THE
Mississippi Baptist Association

FIRST DAY—MORNING SESSION.

FRIDAY, October 8th, 1886.

The MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST ASSOCIATION convened this day in its Eightieth Session with the Mount Zion Church, Franklin County, Miss.

The Introductory Sermon was preached at 11 o'clock, by Elder R. N. Hall, from the text, "Endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace,"—Eph. iv Chapter, 3 verse, at the conclusion of which, an intermission of one hour was given for dinner.

Afternoon Session.

After devotional exercises conducted by Eld. W. W. Bolls, the Association was called to order by Eld. Bolls, the former Moderator, and immediately proceeded to business.

Bro. G. F. Webb and Bro. J. R. Sample were appointed Reading Clerks.

The following named churches were represented by letter and delegates as follows, to-wit:

Centreville—Elder Peter Turner.

East Fork—Eld. H. G. Quin, C. R. Cook and Eld. W. H. Tucker.

Ebenezer—R. Chance.

Galilee—S. S. Faust, R. M. Dixon and W. A. Wilkinson.

Hopewell—T. J. Scott and J. M. Ford.

Liberty—Geo. F. Webb, W. Z. Lea and Thos. J. Webb.

Mars Hill—Eld. R. N. Hall, D. R. Lumpkin and S. J. Hodges.

Mount Zion—H. S. Anderson, J. M. McGehee, Sr., J. M. Cloy and W. R. Cain.

New Salem—Rowan Byrd and John Cruise.

New Zion—Jas. A. Jenkins and William Suddeth.

New Providence—W. P. Gardner and H. R. Causey.

Rameh—Pollard Smith and James Rushing.

Siloam—Elder S. H. Thompson and DeWitt Jones.

Sarepta—Elder T. P. Stewart.

Summit—J. R. Sample and Thos. L. Cotten.

McComb City—S. R. Quin and D. M. Huff.

Zion Hill—Elder W. W. Bolles, W. M. Dunn and K. L. Butler.

New Hope—J. R. Mullen.

Re-organization.

Brethren Sample and Webb, were appointed tellers, and the Association was re-organized by the election of the following named officers for the ensuing year, to-wit:

Elder R. N. Hall, Moderator.

D. M. Huff, Clerk.

W. Z. Lea, Treasurer.

When the vote was announced, Elder Bolles arose and delivered the gavel to his successor in an appropriate speech.

Bro. Lea thanked the Association for the honor con-

ferred upon him, and earnestly requested that he be permitted to retire when he renders his next report.

The Moderator called Elder L. Ball to the Chair.

Elder R. N. Hall moved that the Liberty Church be given further time, (as requested in Associational letter,) in which to consider the matter of disorderly conduct, which was granted.

Elder R. N. Hall then read the following paper, to-wit:

"We, the delegates of the Mars Hill Baptist Church, which said church is in good standing and full fellowship with this Association, by virtue of the power invested in us by the church, do, in the fear of God and to the glory of His name, hereby charge the Summit and Zion Hill churches with being in disorder; and here state that the irregularity is of such a character as to debar said churches, by their delegates, from any farther participation in our deliberations until they shall have righted themselves before the Association.

Specification: "That they are retaining in their membership parties who are, from a Scriptural standpoint, living in adultery."

After the reading of which, Elder R. N. Hall moved: "That the delegates of the said Zion Hill and Summit Churches be debarred from any farther participation in the deliberations of this Association."

During the discussion of this motion, Elder Peter Turner offered the following amendment, to-wit: "That this Association be governed by the decision of the Seventy-ninth Association, which was considered a final settlement of the matter."

Bro. J. R. Sample offered the following amendment to the amendment:

"That this Association does not recognize that the matter was settled at last meeting of the Association

and refer the case back to the Zion Hill Church and recommend that they act," which was carried.

On motion, the Association adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

SECOND DAY—MORNING SESSION.

SATURDAY, October 9th, 1886.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment.

Elder L. Ball led the Devotional Exercises by reading the 18th Chapter of St. Luke.

The minutes of preceding day were read, and on motion of Bro. G. F. Webb, adopted.

The Association then proceeded to business, Eld. Louis Ball sitting as Moderator.

The charge made against the Summit Church was taken up and considered.

Elder R. N. Hall offered the following paper, to-wit:

"Inasmuch as the Liberty Church, acknowledging her irregularity, has asked for farther time in which her membership may be educated, also, inasmuch as the Association does not consider that this matter was settled at the last session of this body, the matter of disorder has been referred back to the Zion Hill Church for action; and, the Summit Church, through her delegates, suggesting that the Charges be withdrawn, at the same time, acknowledging the right of the Association to inquire into her standing; now, therefore, the Mars Hill Church, through her delegates, feeling that the whole matter is now before the Association, does hereby withdraw said charges, and moves that a Committee of three, consisting of Eld. L. Ball, Chairman, Brethren H. S. Anderson and W. Z. Lea, be appointed to investigate the matter and report at this meeting, if possible."

Carried.

At 11 o'clock, the Moderator resumed the Chair.

Messengers from corresponding bodies being called for, the following reported, who were cordially received:

1. Elder Louis Ball, from Mississippi Convention Board.

2. Bro. E. B. Seals, from Carey Association.

3. Elder A. Sleeper, from Homochitto (colored,) Association with letter, also \$12.50 in cash to be forwarded to Bro. David.

4. Bogue Chitto Association—Letter received and correspondence returned.

Eld. W. W. Bolls, moved that this Association meet at 9 o'clock, A. M., adjourn at 12 o'clock, M; reassemble at 1:30 P. M., and adjourn at 4:30 P. M., which was adopted.

The Moderator announced the following Committees, to-wit:

Foreign Missions—Brethren J. R. Sample, J. M. McGehee, Sr., and W. R. Cain.

Home and State Missions—Elders H. G. Quin and Louis Ball, and Brethren W. R. Cain and J. M. Ford.

Sunday-Schools—Eld. T. P. Stewart, Brethren S. J. Hodges and John Cruise.

Obituaries—Eld. W. H. Tucker, Brethren S. R. Quin, Rowan Byrd and William Suddeth.

Prohibition—Brethren W. Z. Lea and J. R. Sample.

Mississippi College—Brethren Geo. F. Webb, J. M. Cloy and Eld. T. P. Stewart.

Abstract of Letters—Eld. S. H. Thompson, Brethren W. P. Gardner and W. A. Wilkinson.

Nominations—Brethren H. S. Anderson, W. M. Dunn and Thos. J. Webb.

Ministerial Education—Brethren Thos. L. Cotten and Pollard Smith and Eld. Chas. H. Otken.

Publications—Brethren T. J. Scott and James Rushing and Elder W. W. Bolls.

Systematic Benevolence—Brethren K. L. Butler, R. M. Dixon and DeWitt Jones.

Finance—Brethren S. S. Faust, D. R. Lumpkin and H. R. Causey.

Religious Exercises—Pastor and Deacons of Mount Zion Church, and Bros. T. L. Cotten and S. R. Quin.

The following named brethren were appointed messengers to corresponding bodies, viz:

Fair River Association—Eld. Z. Loftin, Pollard Smith and B. F. Walker.

Union Association—Eld. T. P. Stewart and W. P. Dielmann.

Homochitto (colored) Association—Elder W. W. Bolls and J. A. Jenkins.

Mississippi Baptist (colored) Association—Correspondence discontinued so long as they meet on the same day that we do.

Gulf Coast Association—Correspondence discontinued.

Mississippi College—Elder Chas. H. Otken and D. M. Huff.

Bogve Chitto Association—Elder Charles H. Otken, W. Z. Lea, B. F. Walker and D. M. Huff.

Mississippi State Convention—On motion of Brother J. R. Sample, any member of this Association attending the Mississippi Baptist State Convention, was authorized to represent us in that body.

District Convention, (colored)—Eld. Peter Turner, J. A. Jenkins, R. M. Dixon and W. A. Wilkinson.

Carey Association—Elders W. W. Bolls and S. H. Thompson, Brethren R. M. Dixon, S. S. Faust and M. H. Martin.

On motion, a committee of four, consisting of Eld. C. H. Otken, D. M. Huff, J. R. Sample and W. Z. Lea, were appointed to make a report on Christian Education within the bounds of this Association.

Adjourned for dinner.

Prayer by Bro. J. R. Sample.

Afternoon Session.

After devotional exercises conducted by Eld. Chas. H. Otken, the Association was called to order by the Moderator, Elder R. N. Hall.

The following query from the New Hope Church was read, to-wit :

"We have among us, a brother who in early life, about nineteen years ago, unfortunately married a woman who proved unchaste; therefore, he put her away, which action has been approved by the church. His course since has been that of a devout Christian; he has, for years, been exercising in prayer-meetings and burial ceremonies. Two years ago he was licensed to preach and has been preaching for us ever since. We believe him called to the work of the ministry and competent of doing a good work for the cause of Christ. Brethren, is it lawful, under the circumstances to ordain him? Please act at once."

Which, upon motion of Bro. Jas. A. Jenkins, was referred to a committee of three, consisting of Elder L. Ball, Elder C. H. Otken, and Bro. H. S. Anderson, for investigation, who submitted the following report which was discussed and adopted. [Appendix "A."]

On motion, Elders C. H. Otken, W. W. Bolls and Bro. E. B. Seals, were appointed a Committee on Christian Morals, with instructions to report Monday.

Elder H. G. Quin, Chairman, read the report of the Committee on Home and State Missions, which was discussed and adopted. [Appendix "B."]

Elder W. W. Bolls, Chairman of the Committee on Religious Exercises, announced the following programme for Sunday, viz :

Prayer-meeting at 10 o'clock, conducted by Brother J. R. Sample.

Preaching at 11 o'clock, by Elder Louis Ball.

Preaching at 2 o'clock, by Elder Chas. H. Otken.

Collection to be taken up after 11 o'clock service by Brethren W. R. Cain, John Cloy, Geo. Cain and S. R. Quin.

Brother Geo. F. Webb, Chairman, read the report of the Committee on Mississippi College, which, on motion, was laid on the table till Monday.

Brother J. R. Mullen was granted a leave of absence for the remainder of the session.

At 4:30 o'clock the Association adjourned till 9 o'clock Monday.

Prayer by Elder S. H. Thompson.

THIRD DAY—MORNING SESSION.

SUNDAY, October 10th, 1886.

The Religious Exercises of the day began at 10 o'clock, A. M., with a prayer-meeting, conducted by Bro. J. R. Sample, who read the 6th Chapter of St. Matthew, and made some interesting comments on the Lord's Prayer.

At 11 o'clock, Elder L. Ball preached an interesting sermon on the subject of Missions, taking for his text the 17th verse of the 22nd chapter of Revelation. After which a collection was taken up for missionary purposes, which resulted as follows:

Cash received.....	\$51 80
Subscriptions received.....	2 00
Total.....	\$53 80

An intermission of two hours was given for dinner, when the congregation re-assembled for the afternoon service. Elder C. H. Otken occupied the pulpit, and se-

lecting for his text, the 14th, 15th, and 16th verses of the 3rd chapter of Ephesians, delivered an eloquent sermon on the subject of "Spiritual might."

At the conclusion of which, the assemblage dispensed.

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FOURTH DAY—MORNING SESSION.

MONDAY, October 11th, 1886.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment.

Elder A. G. Felder, led the Devotional Exercises.

The minutes of preceding days were read, amended, and on motion of Elder W. W. Bolls, adopted.

Elder A. G. Felder was received and welcomed as the messenger from Mississippi River Association.

On motion of Bro. J. R. Sample, all speeches were limited to ten minutes.

On motion, the report of the Committee on Mississippi College; was taken from the table, re-read, discussed and adopted. [Appendix "C."]

Brother H. R. Causey read the report of the Committee on Finance, which was adopted without discussion. [Appendix "D."]

The report of the Committee on Christian morals, was read by Elder C. H. Otken and adopted without discussion. [Appendix "E."]

On motion of Brother J. R. Sample, the Executive Board, constitute the committee named in said report.

Brother K. L. Butler read the report of the Committee on Systematic Benevolence, which was adopted. [Appendix "F."]

Brother W. P. Gardner read the report of the Committee on Abstract of Letters. Adopted. [Appendix "G."]

Elder W. H. Tucker read the report of the Committee on Obituaries, which was amended and adopted. [Appendix "H."]

Brother T. J. Scott read the report of the Committee on Publications, which was discussed and adopted.

[Appendix "I."]

On motion, the Association adjourned for dinner.

Prayer by Elder L. Ball.

Afternoon Session.

The Association met at the appointed hour.

Elder Zach Loftin, led the Devotional Exercises.

Brother J. R. Sample read the report of the Committee on Foreign Missions, which was discussed and adopted. [Appendix "J."]

Elder T. P. Stewart read the report of the Committee on Sunday-schools, during the discussion of which Brother J. R. Sample moved as an amendment to the report, that the several churches in this Association be requested to send representatives to the Zion Hill Church on the 5th Sabbath in January next, for the purpose of organizing a Sunday-school Convention.

The report as amended was adopted. [See Appendix "K."]

Elder C. H. Otken read report of the Committee on Ministerial Education, which was discussed and adopted. [Appendix "L."]

The report of the Committee on Prohibition, was read by Elder C. H. Otken, which was discussed, amended and adopted. [Appendix "M."]

The report of the Committee on Christian Education was read by Elder C. H. Otken, and adopted without discussion. [Appendix "N."]

Elder L. Ball read the report of the Committee appointed to investigate the charge made against the Summit Church, which was adopted. [Appendix "O."]

Brother W. Z. Lea submitted his report as Treasurer for the year ending this day, which was received and read, and on motion, the Association ordered that the

Treasurer be paid the sum of \$12.60, balance due him as per report. [Appendix "P,"]

The Association then resolved itself into a Committee of the whole, Dr. J. R. Sample sitting as Moderator.

The following report was made and unanimously adopted, to-wit:

"The Committee of the whole recommends that each church in the Association raise for the various benevolent purposes to which we contribute, an amount proportionate to the amount of fifty cents. per member; that is to say, if the church has fifty members she should raise \$25.00. If one-hundred members, \$50.00, etc."

Brother W. P. Gardner moved, "that this Association request each church to take up a collection between now and Christmas, 1886, and forward same to Brother W. Z. Lea, Treasurer, to be paid over to Elder S. H. Thompson, for services rendered in 1884." Carried.

Brother H. S. Anderson, read the report of the Committee on Nominations, which was discussed, amended and adopted. [Appendix "Q,"]

The Association then proceeded to select by ballot, a place for the next meeting, which resulted in the selection of East Fork Church, Amite County.

The following resolutions were introduced and passed as in order named, viz:

By Elder W. W. Bolls:

Resolved. That this Association appoint a committee of five to memorialize the Baptist State Convention, and, through that body, to secure the co-operation of the Baptists in the State in petitioning the Legislature to get the repeal of all those laws granting a divorce for any other cause than fornication.

The Moderator appointed Elders W. W. Bolls, C. H. Otken, H. G. Quin and brethren W. P. Gardner and J. R. Sample to constitute said committee.

By Elder H. G. Quin :

Resolved, That we tender the thanks of this Association to the members of this church and the people generally for their kindness in entertaining, so hospitably, this Association.

By Brother J. A. Jenkins :

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be tendered to the officers of this body for the faithful manner in which they have discharged their duties.

By Brother Geo. F. Webb :

Resolved, That the Clerk of this Association prepare and have the minutes of this body printed ; that he draw on the Treasurer for funds to defray the expenses of the same, and that he be allowed twenty-five dollars for his services.

On motion, Sister P. L. Bates was appointed Vice-President of the Central Committee on Woman's Work for Missions.

The minutes were next read and approved.

While the brethren sang the hymn beginning:

"Savior more than life to me,
I am clinging, clinging, close to Thee,"

the delegates gave the parting hand, and then the Association adjourned to meet with the East Fork Church, Amite County, on Friday before the second Sunday in October, A. D., 1887.

Closing Prayer by Elder Louis Ball.

R. N. HALL, Moderator.

D. M. HUFF, Clerk.

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ORDAINED MINISTERS.

NAMES.	POST OFFICES.
Peter Turner.....	Centreville, Wilkinson Co., Miss.
W. W. Bolls.....	Zion Hill, Amite " "
W. H. Tucker.....	Gillsburg, " " "
H. G. Quin.....	Dickey, " " "
Thomas Lausdell.....	Olio, " " "
S. H. Thompson.....	Liberty, " " "
Charles H. Otkin.....	Summit, Pike " "
R. N. Hall.....	Summit, " " "
S. R. Young.....	Summit, " " "
T. P. Stewart.....	Meadville, Franklin " "
Zach Loftin.....	McCall's Creek, " " "
W. H. Weatherly, Union Church,	Jefferson " "

LICENTIATES.

M. M. Whitney.....	Summit
J. R. Mullen.....	Meadville

APPENDICES.

A.--Report of Committee on Query from New Hope Church.

Your Committee on the Query from New Hope Church would respectfully report :

1st. That Sister Maggie Mullins, the first wife of Brother Rueben Mullins, is still living ; that she obtained a letter from New Hope Church, and that in that neighborhood all three of her children were born, and that she united with the Baptist Church known as Antioch, in Arkansas, and is a member of that church now in good standing, and that Brother Rueben Mullins is divorced from her according to the civil law, but that no charge has ever been brought against her by the church respecting her good name.

2d. That he married a second wife since then, who died.

3d. That he married a third wife since the death of his second wife, with whom he is now living.

4th. That, considering all the circumstances, such a man ought not to be put in the gospel ministry.

(Signed)

C. H. OTKEN,

H. S. ANDERSON,

L. BALL,

Committee.

B.--Report of the Committee on Home and State Missions.

Your Committee on Home and State Missions beg leave to report :

Home and State Missions all tend to the same direction. It means giving a portion of our means for the

spread of the gospel, and is in accordance with the commands of the Great Head of the Church, Jesus Christ. We also believe there is no one who possesses too little to abstain from giving. By "Home Missions" is meant Missions under the management of the Home Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, located at Atlanta, Ga. This Board overlooks the entire Southern field, and is doing a great good on many of the late founded railroads in the West. We recommend to the churches to make an effort to increase Missions in that direction. "State Missions" embrace Missions in the territory of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, embracing the greater part of Mississippi, Indian Territory and the Island of Cuba, and all of East Louisiana. We rejoice to state the spirit for giving is on the increase. Much has been done to supply the destitute places within the bounds of our State during the last ten years, and there is much to be done yet in a great portion of our large towns and also in many of the country places. We also commend in our report the resolutions adopted by the Association last year, viz :

1st. That this Association do heartily co-operate with our Convention Mission Board, located at Jackson, Miss., and that hereafter we do all our Mission work through this Board.

2d. That a committee of one from each church be appointed to apportion the amount to be raised for Missions by the Association to the different churches. We also recommend to the churches that while they continue the plan for raising money for State Missions by agents in each church, that they adopt the Convention Board plan of quarterly collections.

(Signed)

H. G. QUIN,
L. BALL,
W. R. CAIN,
J. M. FORD,
Committee.

C.--Report Committee on Mississippi College.

Your Committee on Mississippi College has made diligent inquiry respecting the present status, of this our leading denominational institution of learning of Mississippi, and from the best information within our control, report, that at this time, Mississippi College is upon a better basis than it has been since the war. It opened the present year with 140 students and reports 38 ministers of the Gospel of Christ, who are being educated for more efficient labor in the Master's vineyard. This College has for many years held a high place among the best institutions of learning in the South-west, and it is due to the officers and professors to say that some of the ripest scholars ever educated in the State have been educated at this College and now, and have been long recognized as standing in the front rank of the Baptist Ministry, and to-day this College is doing more for the advancement of denominational interests than any other institution in the bounds of the Baptist Convention, and furnishes a record of which every Baptist in the State should be proud, and demands from each and all not only an indorsement but a more substantial support.

It will be remembered that ministerial students, who are properly recommended by their churches, pay nothing for tuition; and to meet the expenses of the average number of students in this College, money is a necessity, and your committee urges upon the membership of the Baptist churches within our Associational limits to contribute to this important denominational institution, according as the Lord has blessed them. Your committee, therefore, recommend this College to your highest consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
GEO. F. WEBB, Chairman.

D.--Report of Committee on Finance.

Your Committee on Finance would report as follows, to-wit:

Received for Associational purposes.....	\$51 85
“ “ State Missions.....	6 45
“ “ Foreign Missions.....	13 95
“ “ Ministerial Education.....	50
“ “ Home Missions.....	9 00
“ “ Sustentation.....	35
“ “ Missions sent by churches, with cash collections on Sundays.....	87 30
“ “ Building.....	75
Total.....	\$170 15

Which amount has been paid to W. Z. Lea, Treasurer of the Association.

We have examined the Treasurer's report and find the same correct, with a balance in the Treasurer's favor of \$12 60.

Respectfully submitted,

D. R. LUMKIN,
S. S. FAUST,
H. R. CAUSEY,
Committee.

E.--Report of the Committee on Christian Morals.

Your Committee on Christian Morals would respectfully report :

1st. The question of Christian Morals covers both the ground and expression of right. What is right is clearly taught in both the Old and New Testament Scriptures. The doing of right is the expression of duty. There can be no duty where there is no right. Duty then means the payment of dues. These dues all point to the rule of right. Hence, Christian morals embrace every question that refers to ourselves, to our fellowmen

and to all those things over which we have control Christian morals, therefore, pertain to purity of life; to honesty of man with man, to sobriety, and to every excellency in the character of man.

2d. Your committee advise the appointment of a Standing Committee on Christian Morals, whose duty it shall be to enquire of the delegates, any infractions of a common morality, and ascertain what steps the churches are taking to correct the same, and report to the Association accordingly.

(Signed.)

CHAS. H. OTKEN,
E. B. SEALE,
W. W. BOLLS,
Committee.

F.--Report of Committee on Systematic Benevolence.

Your Committee on Systematic Benevolence would recommend the following plan, to-wit:

That each church take up monthly collections for benevolent purposes, the money thus raised to be paid out to the different benevolent enterprises as the church shall direct.

Respectfully submitted,

K. L. BUTLER,
R. M. DIXON,
W. D. JONES,
Committee.

G.--Report of Committee On Abstract of Letters.

Centreville—Elder Peter Turner, pastor; prosperous condition; house not yet finished and we ask help.

East Fork—Elder W. H. Tucker, pastor; condition, harmonious and prosperous.

Ebenezer—Elder T. Lansdell, pastor; congregations small, which denotes a want of zeal in the members.

Galilee—Elder Peter Turner, pastor; house moved to Gloster and finished; condition better than formerly.

New Hope—Pastor, none; church is somewhat in confusion with but little interest manifested in the cause of Christ; asks the prayers of the brethren, that they be again united in the bonds of brotherly love.

Hopewell—Elder W. W. Bolls, pastor, whose services are highly appreciated. The best of feeling prevails.

Liberty—Elder W. H. Tucker, pastor; condition: Owing to the illness of our beloved pastor, preaching has been suspended since February, except when visited by Brethren Elders Lansdell, Bolls, Drain and Scofield.

Mar's Hill—Elder R. N. Hall, pastor; good, sound and healthy spiritual condition; material nearly all worked up.

Mount Zion—Elder W. W. Bolls, pastor; the spirit has led us in the paths of peace, and we have had a precious revival.

New Providence—Elder Thomas Lansdell, pastor; sinners have been made to lay hold on the promises of Christ; peace, harmony and brotherly love prevail.

New Salem—Elder T. P. Stewart, pastor; church revived, and asks the prayers of the brethren that they may be more consecrated to the service of our Master.

New Zion—Elder A. G. Felder, pastor; church greatly revived.

Ramah—No pastor; our condition is lukewarm and we implore your prayers.

Sarepta—Elder W. H. Weatherly, pastor; church in a good working condition; reports a great revival.

Siloam—Elder S. H. Thompson, pastor; church greatly revived.

Summit—Elder R. N. Hall, pastor, until July, when he resigned. In August we elected Elder C. H. Otken for balance of the year; church in good working condition.

McComb City—Elder R. N. Hall, pastor; reports a glorious revival; many souls converted to God.

Zion Hill—Elder W. W. Bolts, pastor; church considerably revived with some additions.

Respectfully submitted,

S. H. THOMPSON,
W. P. GARDNER,
W. A. WILKINSON,

Committee.

H—On Obituaries.

Your committee respectfully report, that we have discovered that there have occurred, in the bounds of our membership, twenty-four deaths during the year now closing. Among these, there were brethren worthy of special notice. We beg to mention the following, viz: Hampton M. Lea, of East Fork church, the oldest deacon, a bright and shining light among his brethren. He lived a long life abounding in useful works, and died after a lingering illness of several years continuance, which was patiently endured. His hope in the resurrection comforted him to the last.

Brother Dempsy Cain, of Mt. Zion Church, also an old man, beloved by all whose privilege it was to know him. Deacon John Nunnery, of New Zion church, also an old man rich in faith. We thank God for the lives and example of such men. Besides these, we have to report, with sadness, the following losses by death, in the churches, viz:

East Fork, 2; Ebenezer, 3; New Zion, 2; Liberty 3; Mount Zion, 3; New Providence, 2; Summit, 1; McComb City, 1; Galilee, 4.

Respectfully submitted,

W. H. TUCKER,
S. R. QUIN,
WILLIAM SUDDUTH,

Committee.

I.—On Publications.

Your Committee on Publications beg leave to report, that, in our weak judgment, the Bible, the *Book of books*, stands pre-eminently above all others. We are commanded to "search the scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of me." The necessity of reading and prayerfully studying it cannot be presented to our minds in stronger language.

As denominational papers, we most earnestly recommend The Baptist Record and Foreign Mission Journal. In them we have an interchange of ideas and views of the most learned in our denomination. We not only find out what we are doing ourselves, but what all Christians are doing towards spreading the glad tidings of the gospel to the remote corners of the world, which is to be the grand climax of our Christian period.

We would recommend to all Christians to discontinue the custom of permitting that kind of literature to come into their houses which has a tendency to ruin the intellect, *do all harm and no good*.

As for Sunday-Schools, (while there are others that may be as good), no literature is better calculated to advance the minds of our children in the knowledge of our blessed Master than Kind Words. All of which is most respectfully submitted.

T. J. SCOTT,
W. W. BOLLS,
J. C. RUSHING,
Committee.

J.—On Foreign Missions.

Missions are Missions, whether Foreign or Home. The principle is the same whether in the United States or Africa. The order of progress laid down in the first chapter of the Acts for Mission work is from Jerusalem

"unto the uttermost parts of the earth." Mission work is the work of the church. Going into all the world and preaching the gospel to every creature, is the *practical*, expansive idea in all evangelistic work. We are glad to note that laborers, to more or less extent, are at work among all nations of the earth, and tremble when we pause to view the hour-hand of God's clock pointing at 6 P. M., of His last dispensation. Laborers seeking employment in Foreign fields are rapidly on the increase, and the demand for funds is proportionately on the increase. Natives in Foreign countries when converted, take up the work and are doing much in the matter of spreading the "good views" around them.

J. R. SAMPLE,
J. M. McGEHEE, SR.
W. R. CAIN,
Committee.

K.—On Sunday-Schools.

Your Committee on Sunday-schools beg leave to make the following report:

In looking over last year's report on Sunday-Schools, we find two questions worthy of the prayerful consideration of every Christian. In reply to the first, we would suggest that a Sunday-School Convention be organized in this Association to meet on every fifth Sunday.

In reply to the second question, we would say that nothing but Baptist literature should be used in our Sunday-Schools.

In conclusion, we would urge pastors to lay this matter before their respective churches and recommend that they take immediate action.

Respectfully submitted,
T. P. STEWART,
Chairman Com.

L.—Ministerial Education.

Your Committee would respectfully report :

1st. This age is marked with an intense interest in the work of education among all classes of our people. That interest is deepening every day. The intellectual awakening is sure to continue. The demand for culture is earnest. Parents feel that it is the best heritage which they can bequeath to their children.

2nd. In these facts, we find a strong argument in favor of the education of those whom God has called to preach the Gospel. An ignorant ministry cannot instruct an intelligent people. Young men called of God to preach the Gospel should avoid themselves of every opportunity to fit themselves for their solemn work. This is their duty. To despise it is folly if it is not presumption.

3rd. If earnest preparation for the work of the Gospel ministry is the duty of those called to preach the Gospel, it is certainly the duty of the churches to render to them such pecuniary assistance as their pressing necessities may demand.

THOS. L. COTTEN,
POLLARD SMITH,
CHAS. H. OTKEN.

Committee.

M.—On Prohibition.

1st. The progress of prohibition sentiments in Mississippi and the success that has attended the efforts of prohibitionists is cause for gratitude to Almighty God. We rejoice that of the seventy-four counties in the State, thirty-seven counties voted, under recent Option Laws, the liquor traffic out of their territory. The very best people in the State rejoice over this great moral victory. It has brought gladness to a thousand homes, where anxiety and want and madness made home-life the abode of indescribable wretchedness. In these thirty-

seven counties the saloons with their awful temptations, menacing boyhood and manhood alike, and as cruel and merciless as the hyena in the appalling indifference respecting the woes, the suffering, the poverty and the moral degradation which the liquor traffic brings to noble women and their innocent children, are gone, and we trust that they are gone forever.

2d. We rejoice that healthy moral sentiments, upon the subject of temperance and prohibition, long depressed and debauched by the liquor traffic, and the unnatural and mad appetites of men, are everywhere awakening and advancing. That the paralysis of stupor and terrible unconcern respecting the tremendous evils of the liquor business, is giving sure signs of recovered life. That earnest and solemn convictions are taking hold of men, and that these convictions find expression in earnest and persevering actions.

3d. We rejoice to know that the very best men and women in every community are arrayed in solid column in favor of prohibition. They are those who promote by word and action the educational, moral, religious and material interests of the country. They are the industrious, peace-loving and order-loving portion of the country. They are those, who, on the Sabbath day are found in the house of God. The moral strength of every community is decidedly in favor of prohibition. Prohibitionists are everywhere outspoken.

4th. We rejoice to know that in the counties of Mississippi, where the cause of prohibition was defeated at the polls, the contest is not at an end. The determination of the good people is well fixed that the liquor traffic, so disastrous to all the best interests of society, shall die the death. This determination is strengthened by the fact that where ever we sustained a defeat, it was largely the result of the negro votes, and the negro votes

upon this question favoring the sale of liquor, means utter indifference to the morals of the community, and the terrible consequences that everywhere follow this business. Upon this question immorality may out vote morality and every interest valuable to society.

5th. While there is cause for rejoicing in view of the progress made, it should not be forgotten that there is much work yet to be done. The blight of the liquor influence is upon many a heart; the moneyed interest involved in the liquor business will not hesitate to use unscrupulous means for its promotion; the depraved appetite for liquor will assert its cruel claims, and ignorance and a torpid conscience—dead to all the interests of humanity—will play their malignant part in the giant strife. Churches and schools, every interests in our loved land, and everything that can inspire to noble efforts, and everything that pertains to the peace and purity of American homes, age, the child in the cradle, demand that we falter not until prohibition is triumphant in all our broad land.

6th. In view of these considerations, your committee would commend to the Association, the following practical suggestions to insure the triumph of our cause.

1st. Stricken out by amendment.

2d. That the churches be earnestly advised not to tolerate members who sign liquor petitions, or the bonds of saloon keepers.

3d. That every effort should be made to circulate temperance literature among the children of the land.

4th. That we deprecate that any citizen, whether physician, attorney, merchant or planter, or any other useful calling in life should support, by his vote, or his silence, this destructive liquor traffic.

5th. That we deplore that liquor revenue should be used for educational purposes by the State.

6th. That it is the duty of the ministry to advocate the God-given cause of prohibition.

Respectfully,

W. Z. LEA,
J. R. SAMPLE,
Committee.

N.—Christian Education.

Your Committee on Christian Education within the bounds of this Association would respectfully report:

1st. This subject is worthy of serious consideration of the people of this Association. Christian education is training under Christian influence. Mere training in books is good; but if the affections and the consciences and the motives are left unguided by those influences that can alone direct them to noble ends, the heart may crystalize in its wayward disposition. The sense of duty may be scouted as a matter of secondary importance. The whole future life may be reduced to a mere cold intellectuality. The neglect of impressing the heart by Christian influences when that heart is most susceptible to moral impressions, may tell disastrously upon the future life of the child.

2nd. We regard it a duty to encourage the schools conducted by our brethren and located within the bounds of our association.

3rd. We commend Lea Female College, at Summit, as worth the patronage of our people.

Respectfully submitted,

CHAS. H. OTKEN,
W. Z. LEA,
J. R. SAMPLE,
D. M. HUFF,
Committee.

O.—Summit Church.

We, the Committee appointed at the suggestion of the delegates of the Mar's Hill and Summit Churches, to in-

investigate the standing of the Summit Church, hereby express our conviction that the church will exercise discipline in the matter referred to if it becomes necessary, and recommend that the Association take no farther action in the matter at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

L. BALL,
W. Z. LEA,
H. S. ANDERSON.

Committee.

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P.—Treasurer's Report.

W. Z. LEA, Treasurer,

In acc't with MISS. BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

Bal. on hand, last report, Asso'nl fund.....	\$31 65
Rec'd from the Finance Committee.....	91 45
Total.....	\$123 10

Cr.

Paid Eld. J. B. Gambrell for printing and distrib- uting minutes, 1885.....	\$55 00
Pd. bal. due him on minutes of 1884.....	8 20
Pd. Eld. R. N. Hall, as Clerk.....	25 00
Total.....	\$88 20
Balance due the Association.....	34 90

State Mission Board.

Rec'd from Finance Committee.....	\$133 10
Foreign Missions.....	15 20
Mississippi College.....	47 00
Ministerial Education.....	4 65
Sustentation.....	2 50
Bal. on hand last report, Foreign Missions.....	14 25
Rec'd from the Ebenezer Church.....	14 85
Rec'd from the Mount Zion Church.....	6 60
Rec'd from the Hopewell Church.....	5 00
Rec'd from the Liberty Church.....	72 80
Total.....	\$315 95

Cr.

Sent to State Mission Board for the general work of the Baptist State Convention.....	\$328 55
Bal. due the Treasurer.....	\$12 60
A considerable sum has been sent to the Treasurer of our Convention Board, of which I have no report.	

Q.—Nominations.

Your Committee on Nominations would submit the following as their report, viz :

We name as an Executive Board, Brethren W. Z. Lea, W. F. Love, J. D. Lea, Thomas J. Webb and Joseph Causey.

Place of holding their meetings, Liberty;
Introductory Sermon.—Elder Peter Turner.
Alternate.—Elder W. W. Bolls.

Respectfully submitted,

H. S. ANDERSON,
W. M. DUNN,
T. J. WEBB,
Committee.

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ARTICLES OF FAITH
OF THE
MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

I. We believe in only one true living God, and that there is a trinity in persons in the God-head—the Father, the Son, the Holy Ghost, the same in essence, equal in power and glory.

II. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by the inspiration of God, are of Divine authority, and the only rule of faith and practice.

III. We believe in the fall of Adam, in the imputation of his sins to all his posterity, in the total depravity of human nature, and in man's inability to restore himself to the favor of God.

IV. We believe in the everlasting love of God to his people, in the eternal, unconditional election of a definite number of the human family to grace and glory.

V. We believe that sinners are only justified, in the sight of God by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ, which is unto all and upon all them that believe.

VI. We believe all those who were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world are, in time, effectually called, regenerated, converted and sanctified; and are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

VII. We believe there is one Mediator between God and men—the man Christ Jesus, who, by the satisfaction he made to law and justice, in becoming an offering

for sin, hath, by his most precious blood, redeemed the elect from under the curse of the law that they might be holy and without blame before him in love.

VIII. We believe that good works are the fruits of faith, and follow after justification, are evidences of a gracious state; and that it is the duty of all believers to perform them from a principle of love.

IX. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and a general judgment; that the happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting.

GOSPEL ORDER.

1. We believe that the visible Church of Jesus Christ is a congregation of faithful persons, who have given themselves up to the Lord, and to one another, and have covenanted to keep up a godly discipline, agreeable to the rules of the gospel.

2. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Head of the church—the only Lawgiver—and the government is with the body of the church, and is equally the right and privilege of each member thereof.

3. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are the gospel ordinances appointed by Jesus Christ, and are to be continued in the church.

4. We believe that baptism by immersion is the only Scriptural mode, and that believers are the only proper subjects.

5. We believe that none but regularly baptized church members have a right to partake of the Lord's Supper.,

We believe it to be the duty and privilege of all believers to make a public profession of their faith, to submit to baptism by immersion, and to give themselves as members, of the visible church.

7. We believe it to be the duty of every organized church to expel from her communion, all disorderly members, who are immoral in their lives, or hold doctrines contrary to Scripture.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. Those delegates who are regularly chosen by the churches of our Union, shall compose the Association.
2. The delegates so chosen shall produce letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment, together with the number in fellowship, those baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excommunicated, and dead, since the last Association.
3. Delegates thus chosen and convened shall be denominated the "MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST ASSOCIATION."
4. The Association shall have a Moderator, and Clerk who shall be chosen by the members present.
5. If new churches desire to be admitted into Union, they shall petition by letter and delegates. If, on examination, found orthodox and orderly, they shall be received by the Association, manifested by the Moderator giving their delegates the right hand of fellowship.
6. No church in the Union shall have a right to more than two delegates, until she shall exceed one hundred members; then she shall have a right to an additional delegate for every fifty.
7. Every query sent to the Association, by any church in the Union, shall be read and put to a vote by the Moderator whether it shall be debated; and if there shall be a majority for it, it shall be taken up and investigated; provided, always, that those be first considered which affect the union of the churches.
8. Every motion made and seconded shall be taken up by the Association, except it be withdrawn by the person who made it.
9. Only one person shall speak at once, who shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator.
10. The person thus speaking shall not be interrupted except he depart from the subject, break the Rules of Decorum, or cast reflections on a brother, in which case, he shall be immediately called to order by the Moderator.
11. No person shall speak more than twice on the same subject without leave of the Association.
12. No brother shall be suffered to whisper or laugh

during the conference, neither shall he absent himself without leave of the Moderator.

13. The Moderator shall have the liberty of speaking on any question that may be debated; provided the chair may be previously filled, and have the privilege of voting only when the Association is equally divided.

14. The names of the delegates shall be enrolled by the Clerk and called over as often as the Association may deem expedient.

15. We think it absolutely necessary to have an Associational fund for defraying the expenses of the same, for the raising and supporting of which we think it the duty of each church in the Union to contribute such sums as it may think proper, and send them by their delegates to the Association, and the money thus contributed by the churches, shall be deposited in the hands of the Treasurer, by the Association appointed, who shall be accountable to the Association for all the money by him received, and paid out according to the direction of the same.

16. The Minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association rises.

17. These Rules of Decorum and Gospel Order may be altered, changed or amended, from time to time, or any part of them, when a majority of all the churches in the Association shall deem it necessary, but the Articles of Faith shall not be subject to any alternations only as respects form.

POWERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

1. It shall be the business of this Association to provide for the general union of the churches.

2. To keep up a friendly correspondence (when convenient) with other Associations of the same faith and order.

3. This Association shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor infringe upon any of the internal rights of the churches.

4. It shall be the duty of the Association to give the churches the best advice in its power, in difficult matters, to inquire into any difficulties which may exist between sister churches, and remove them if possible.

5. To admit any of the brethren in the ministry as associates, but not to give them the privilege of voting.

6. This Association shall have the power to withdraw from any church in the Union, which may be unsound in principle or immoral in practice, until reclaimed.

7. To appoint any person or persons by and with their consent, to transact any business which the Association may deem necessary.

8. The Association shall have the power to adjourn to any time or place they may think proper.

9. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

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